



By the King.

A Proclamation, prohibiting the bringing in of any Commodities traded from the LEVANT, into this Kingdome; aswell by Subiects as Strangers, not free of that Company: Also conteyning a publication of certaine Statutes, for the restraint of all His Maiesties Subiects, from Shipping any Commodities in Strangers Bottomes, either into this Kingdome, or out of the same.



T is a great part of Our Princely care, to main-  
taine and increase the trade of Our Merchants, and the strength of Our  
Nation, the one being as the Veines whereby Wealth is imported into  
Our Estate, and the other as principall Synewes for the strength and  
service of Our Crowne and Kingdome: whereas therefore the Socie-  
tie and Company of Our Merchants trading the LEVANT Seas, haue  
by the space of thirtie yeeres past, at the least, had a settled and constant  
possession of Trade in those parts, and haue had the sole bringing in of all the Commodities of those  
Countreys, as namely Currans, Cotton woolls, wines of Candie, Galles, &c. whereby Our King-  
dome hath bene much enriched, Our great Ships and Mariners set on worke, and the Honour and  
fame of Our Nation and Kingdome, spread and enlarged in those remote parts: And whereas,  
for their further encouragement, the said Company haue had, and enjoyed by Letters Patents  
vnder the great Seale of England, aswell in the time of the late Queene, as in Our owne time,  
priuiledge for the sole bringing in of the saide Commodities, with generall prohibitions and re-

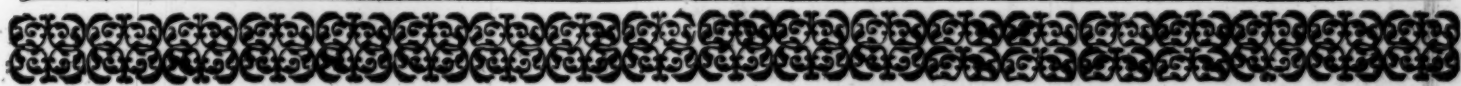
restraints, as well of naturall Subjects, being not free of that Societie, as of all Strangers and Aliens whatsoever, to bring in any of the saide Commodities, contrary to the priuiledge of the saide Company :


Wee minding the vpholding and continuance of the said Trade, and not to suffer that the said Society shall sustaine any violation or diminution of their liberties and priuiledges, haue thought good to ratifie and publish vnto all persons, as well subjects as strangers, the said priuiledge and restraints, to the end that none of them presume to attempt any thing against the same : And do hereby straitly charge and command all Our Customers, Comptrollers, and all other Our Officers at the Ports, and also the Farmers of Our Customs and their Deputies and waiters, that they suffer not any Currans, Cotton Wooll, Wines of Candy, Galles, nor any other Commodities whatsoever, brought from any the forraine parts or Regions, whereinto the said Company haue vsed to Trade, to bee landed, except onely such as shall bee brought in by such as are free of the saide Company.

Furthermore, Whereas there hath bene in Ancient time, diuers good and politike Lawes made against the Shipping of Merchandizes in Strangers Bottomes, either inward or outward, as namely the Statutes of 5. Rich. 2. 4. Hen. 7. 32. Hen. 8. &c. which Lawes haue of later yeeres bene much neglected, to the great preiudice of the Nauigation of Our Kingdome : We doe straightly charge and command, that the saide Lawes bee from hencefoorth duely put in execution, vpon the great and grievous paines therein contained, and vpon paine of Our high indignation and displeasure towards all Our Officers and Ministers, which shall be found slacke and remisse in procuring and assisting the due execution of the said Lawes.

Given at Whitehall, the seuenteenth day of April, in the thirteenth yeere  
of Our Raigne of England, France, and Ireland, and of Scotland  
the eight and fortieth.

God saue the King.



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